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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,972	03/14/2002	Karsten Brand	101195-66	3621
27387	7590	12/23/2003	EXAMINER	
BRUCE LONDA			WHITEMAN, BRIAN A	
NORRIS, MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.			ART UNIT	
220 EAST 42ND STREET, 30TH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
NEW YORK, NY 10017			1635	

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,972

Applicant(s)

BRAND ET AL.

Examiner

Brian Whiteman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-51 are pending.

The amendment to claims 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 31, and 49 filed on 10/29/01 has been entered. The amendment to claim 52 has not been entered because there is no claim 52 as acknowledged by Bruce Londa on 12/10/03.

The amendment to the specification and the amendment to the claims 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 31, and 49-51 filed on 3/14/02 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 25-37, 41-44, 45, 47, and 49-51, drawn to a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene encoding a metalloprotease inhibitor.

Group II, claim(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 25-31, 40-44, 49-51, drawn to a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene encoding an extra-cellular matrix protein.

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Group III, claim(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25-31, 38, 39, 41-44, 49-51, drawn to a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene encoding an adhesion molecule protein.

Group IV, claim(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 20, 23, 24, 25-31, 41-44, 49-51, drawn to a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene comprising a suicide gene.

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single invention concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding technical features for the following reasons:

37 CFR 1.475(b) states:

"An international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories:

- (1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or
- (2) A product and process of use of said product; or
- (3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or
- (4) A process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or
- (5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process.

37 CFR 1.475(c) states:

“If an application contains claims to more or less than one of the combination of categories of invention set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, unity of invention might not be present.”

37 CFR 1.475(d) also states:

“If multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application and the first recited invention of each other categories related thereto will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT Article 17(3)(a) and 1.476(c).”

37 CFR 1.475(e) further states:

“The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternative within a single claim.”

In view of 37 CFR 1.475 (b), 37 CFR 1.475 (c), 37 CFR 1.475 (d), and 37 CFR 1.475 (e), Group I is considered the main invention to the product first mentioned in the claims, and the first recited invention drawn to other categories related thereto, e.g. a method of making, method of use.

The technical feature linking groups I-IV appear to be that they all relate to a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene.

However, Martuza (US 5,728,379) teaches a vector comprising a nucleotide sequence comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene comprising a suicide gene. Therefore, the

technical feature linking the inventions of groups I-IV does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

The special technical feature of Group I is considered to be a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene encoding a metalloprotease inhibitor.

The special technical feature of Group II is considered to be a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene encoding an extra-cellular matrix protein.

The special technical feature of Group III is considered to be a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene encoding an adhesion molecule protein.

The special technical feature of Group IV is considered to be a vector comprising an enhancer/promoter and a transgene comprising a suicide gene.

Accordingly, Group I-IV are not so linked by the same or a corresponding technical feature as to form a single general inventive concept.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

For Group I -

(a) metalloprotease inhibitor selected from the following: TIMP-1, TIMP-2, TIMP-3, TIMP-4, PAI-1, PAI-2;

For Group II -

(b) extracellular matrix protein selected from the following: collagen, fibronectin, laminin; and

For Group III -

(c) adhesion molecule selected from the following: claudin, occludin, cadherin, integrin, gene from the immunoglobulin superfamily, selectin, muzin.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 32-37, and 45 correspond to (a).

The following claim(s) are generic: claims 1-10, 20, 21, 22, 25-31, 41-44, and 47-51;

Claims 15, 16, 17, and 40 correspond to (b).

The following claim(s) are generic: claims 1-9, 20, 21, 22, 25-31, 41-44, and 49-51; and

Claims 18, 19, 38, 39, and 46 correspond to (c).

The following claim(s) are generic: claims 1-9, 20, 21, 22, 25-31, 41-44, and 49-51.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the species of (a) the genes encoding the

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metalloprotease inhibitors are different structurally and/or functionally with regard to their site of action, (b) the transgenes encoding the extra-cellular matrix proteins are different structurally and/or functionally with regard to their site of action, (c) the genes encoding the adhesion proteins are different structurally and/or functionally with regard to their site of action.

Applicants are reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 § 1.17(h).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Whiteman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0775. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 4:00 (Eastern Standard Time), with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang, acting SPE - Art Unit 1635, can be reached at (703) 306-3217.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

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Brian Whiteman

Patent Examiner, Group 1635

Scott D. Pribe

SCOTT D. PRIEBE, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER